The South African refugee of today is a young woman or man who dared to meet in a public place, to speak out in peaceful protest, or was brave enough to distribute a political handbill... I watch and I weep at the exodus of South Africa's brave and talented daughters and sons. There goes our next best hope. There goes our future.

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Capetown, South Africa

Bishop Tutu Refugee Fund

The Bishop Tutu Refugee Fund was founded in a Hartford Church in May of 1985. The Refugee Fund was administered by the Capitol Region Conference of Churches and to a lesser degree the Phelps-Stokes Fund in New York city until incorporated as a separate non-profit entity on June 12, 1986.

The Refugee Fund ran as a "kitchen table" operation with the co-founders, Naomi Tutu and Corbin Seavers, never thinking the organization would raise more than a few hundred dollars for South African refugees. After the first year the Refugee Fund raised over forty-five thousand dollars. At that point, with Archbishop Tutu's encouragement and blessings, the Refugee Fund took concrete steps towards becoming a more professional organization. After careful planning, the Refugee Fund achieved the following goals in a relatively short period of time:

1. Received from a Connecticut Law firm free office space for a year
2. Hired a full-time staff person
3. Adopted more efficient fundraising techniques.

Since 1985 the Projects Director has spent a total of five weeks in Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho and Zimbabwe identifying projects, gathering information and doing follow-up work. This February 1987 the Projects Director left for a three week tour to five countries.
Project Summary

What follows are concise descriptions of all the projects funded ending May 1986:

1. Botswana Council for Refugees:  
   A. to implement a National Awareness Program in Botswana on the urgent need for citizens to support refugees, B. emergency housing to South African refugee families following a Pretoria raid, C. two vocational school scholarships, and D. a grant to hire a refugee counselor.

2. Kagisong Refugee Center:  
   A. to purchase medical supplies, B. hire a refugee counselor, C. to purchase office supplies and to repair a solar heater.

3. UNHCR:  
   to purchase a typewriter, books and supplies for a school in the Dukwi Refugee Camp.

4. YWCA Refugee Committee:  
   A. to hire a refugee counselor in order to assist urban refugee women become self-sufficient in Botswana.

5. Farming Project:  
   A. to provide a South African refugee farm in Tanzania with farming boots and gloves, B. office supplies, C. Educational supplies and books.

6. Itereleng Project:  
   A. grant to start an income-producing poultry project at a South African refugee farm in Botswana.

7. South African Churches:  
   A. grants to four regional council of churches to provide assistance to the Sanctuary Movement.

8. Division of Refugee Ministries:  
   A. to help the families of South African refugees still in South Africa.

9. Archbishop Tutu's Diocese:  
   A. a grant to provide emergency aid to displaced families in the Capetown area.

For the 1987 year the Refugee Fund has already expanded assistance to business, agricultural and educational projects for refugees in Swaziland, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Kenya. Health, scholarship and other community projects in South Africa are targeted too.

Archbishop Tutu's Visit

This December 15th, 1986, Archbishop Tutu discreetly entered Hartford for a lengthy business meeting with the Executive Committee of the Refugee Fund. Amongst the decisions reached was for the establishment of a staff person at the Archbishop's Diocese in Capetown. The Archbishop also urged the Refugee Fund to "extend our compassion to all refugees in Southern Africa." This includes the 160,000 Mozambican refugees in apartheid South Africa. The meeting ended with the Archbishop expressing great satisfaction with the work done to date and his deepest appreciation to all our donors and supporters.
Botswana Ambassador Hosted

The Bishop Tutu Refugee Fund hosted a luncheon for the Honorable Serara T. Ketlogetswe, the Republic of Botswana’s Ambassador to the United States, on October 30th, 1986. The Hartford World Affairs Council, in cooperation with the Refugee Fund, scheduled the Ambassador for an evening lecture on contemporary developments in Southern Africa.

At the luncheon Ambassador Ketlogetswe urged the Refugee Fund to continue our work in preparing South African refugees for a post-apartheid society. He also encouraged us to help educate the American public on the urgent situation in Southern Africa.

Many Thanks!

The Refugee Fund receives on a daily basis expressions of moral support and financial donations from various sources. Our office regretfully cannot always send a personal note of appreciation. Please accept this brief mention as our "Thanks!" for all the generous and much needed gifts:

Much Thanks to Huntington's Bookstore on Asylum Street and Reader's Feast for helping us send numerous books to refugees...St. Luke's Parish and Sinsinawa Dominion Sisters for their generous donations...the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut for the prayers and financial support...Westminster Presbyterian Church for the five thousand dollar pledge...the October 10th 1986 anti-apartheid rally of 200 University of Cincinnatii students for remembering South African refugees...the Western Massachusetts Coalition Against Apartheid's October 5th 1986 rally for collecting 1,300 dollars for the church-based Sanctuary Movement in South Africa...RESIST for the 1985 grant...Southern Christian Leadership Conference President Joseph Lowery and SCLC Women's Wing President Evelyn Lowery and the entire SCLC for raising books for refugees...Bernice King for her active support...Trinity College in Hartford for collecting 4,600 dollars from Trustee members, faculty, students and administrators...Mayor Thirman L. Milner for declaring June 16th, 1985, as "South African Freedom Day in the City of Hartford"...the Bermuda Industrial Union for raising funds...the Notre Dame Anti-apartheid Organization for having a concern that raised three-hundred dollars...the Founder's School in East Hamden for collecting one thousand dollars...Sarah Ingram and her eleven young friends in Vermont for organizing a successful "skip-a-thon" fundraiser...the All Nations Seven-Day Adventist Church in Michigan for donating 330 dollars...

(continued)
Much Thanks!

...the Central District Baptist Association in Louisville for the 1600 dollar collection...the gift and prayers from the United Church on the Green in Connecticut...

Shattered Land, Fragile Asylum

A timely report released by the U.S. Committee for Refugees, Refugees From Mozambique: Shattered Land, Fragile Asylum, examines the history and current situation of Mozambican refugees in their nations of asylum, especially the 160,000 in South Africa, and outlines the conflict that has impelled them to risk death to escape Mozambique. "The potential for human catastrophe and massive population displacement pervades southern Africa," said USCR Director Roger Winter. "A much broader understanding of the problems of the region is essential if overwhelming physical suffering is to be avoided over the next several years."

Please request a free copy from-
U.S. Committee for Refugees
815 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Suite 610
Washington, D.C. 20005
Attention: Tom Brennan

What is a Refugee?

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) defines a refugee as a "person who, owing to a wellfounded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and unable, or, owing to such fear, unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country." The Organization of African Unity (OAU), representing independent African nations, in 1969 went a step further in considering a refugee as a person "who owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order" flees to another country.

-SIYAKA is a Zulu phrase meaning "we are building". This phrase accurately reflects our most central purpose.

Expect the next issue in June 1987. The topics are to include project profiles, a report on our latest trip overseas and other news.

"The Fund assists us in caring for refugees both outside and inside South Africa. We urge Americans to support the Bishop Tutu Refugee Fund."

Reverend Sol Jacobs
South African Council of Churches
Division of Refugee Ministries